

Importance of Freshwater Mussels



Division of Inland Fisheries

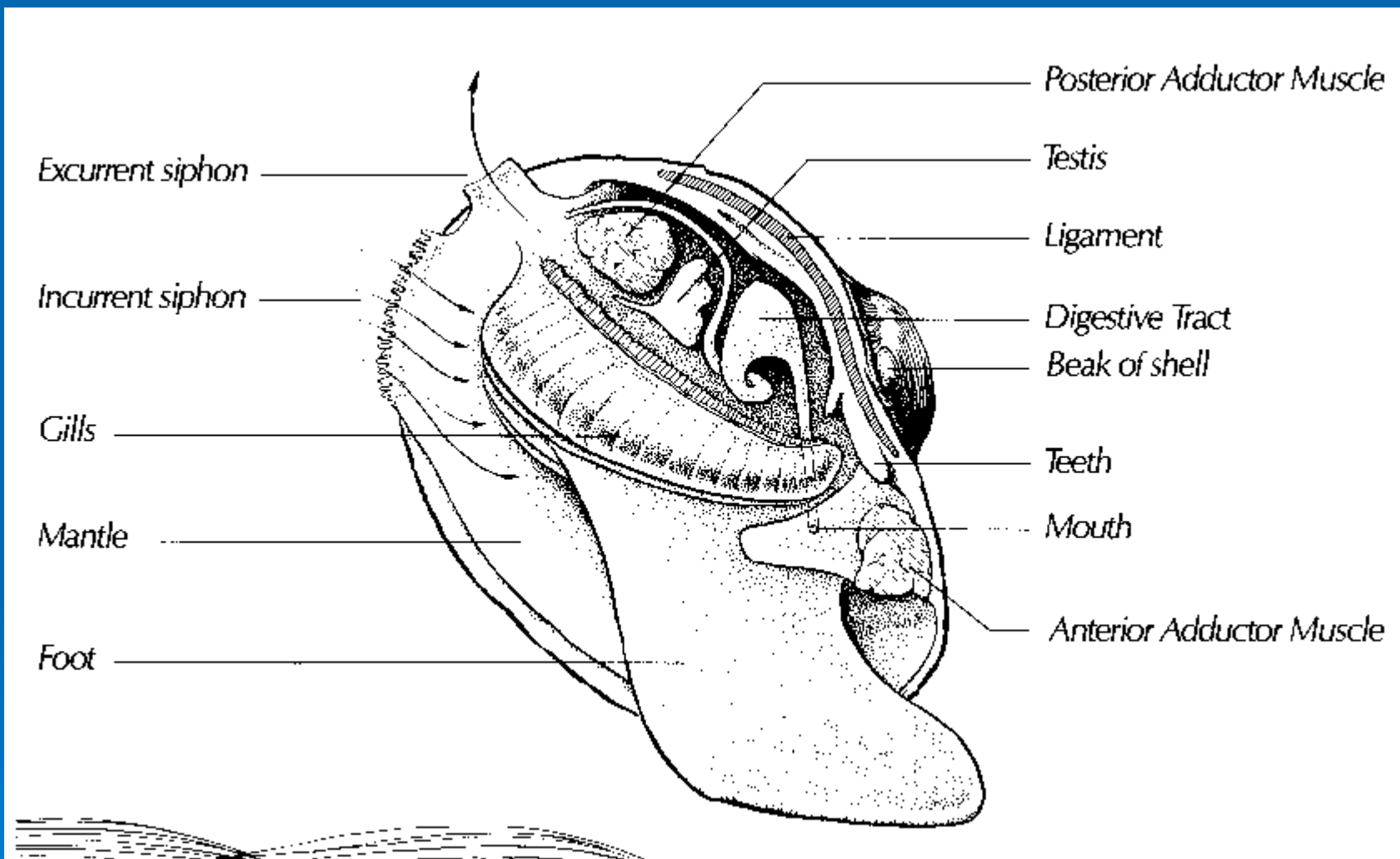
Mark Fowlkes

Habitat Conservation Program

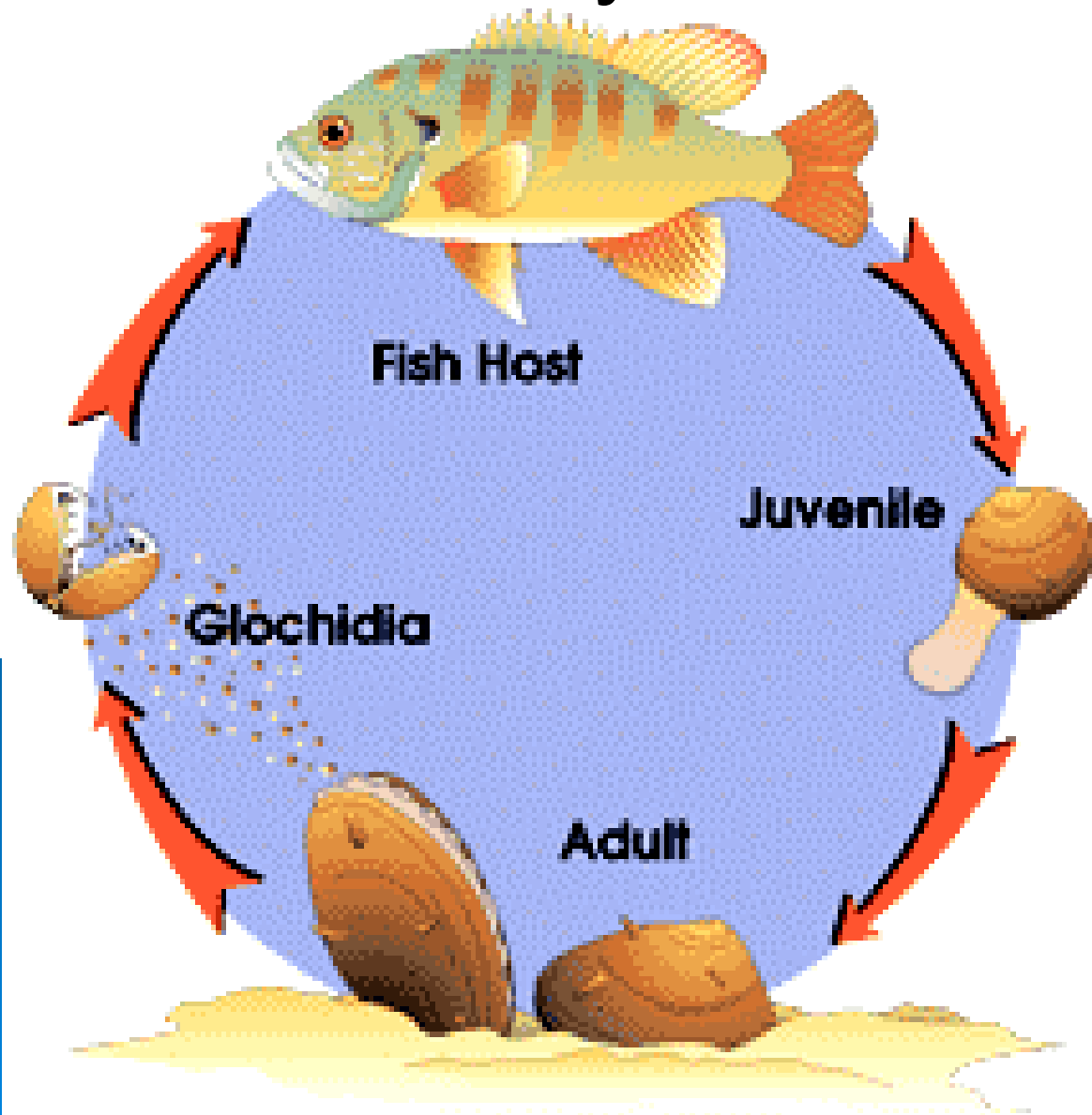




Anatomy



Lifecycle



Baby Mussels

Glochidia
come in
various sizes-
the larger
ones (1/4 mm)
are fat
muckets- the
smaller are
spectaclecase



Close-up of
gravid gill
containing
ovisacs. The
ovisacs are
released in
early spring



M. C. Barnhart 1998









Ecological and Economic Benefits















Water Quality Indicator

- Link in the food web
- Easy to collect
- Sensitive to pollution
- Sedentary
- Long lived





Threats to Freshwater Mussels



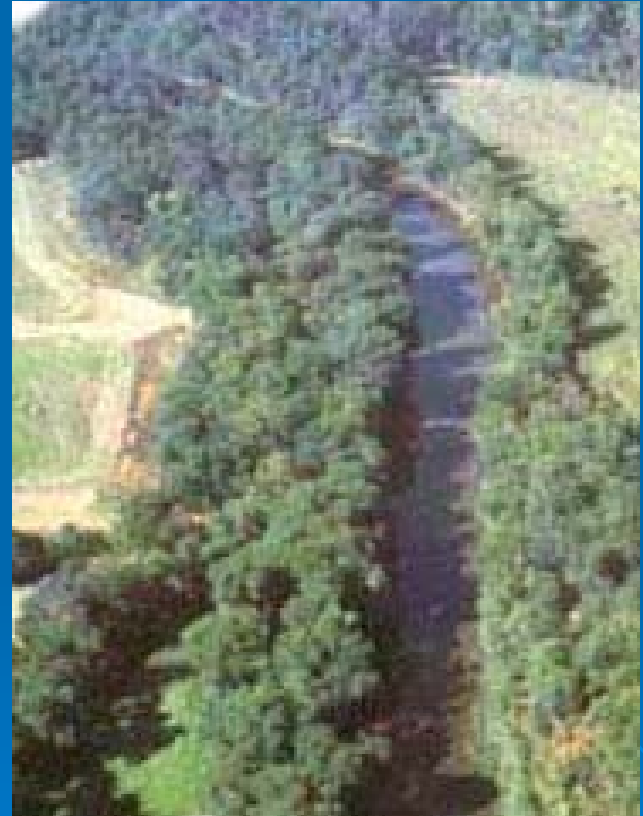






Loss of forested riparian buffer

Area of Woodland vegetation on the banks of streams and lakes, designed to provide ecological functions, intercept pollutants and manage other environmental concerns.



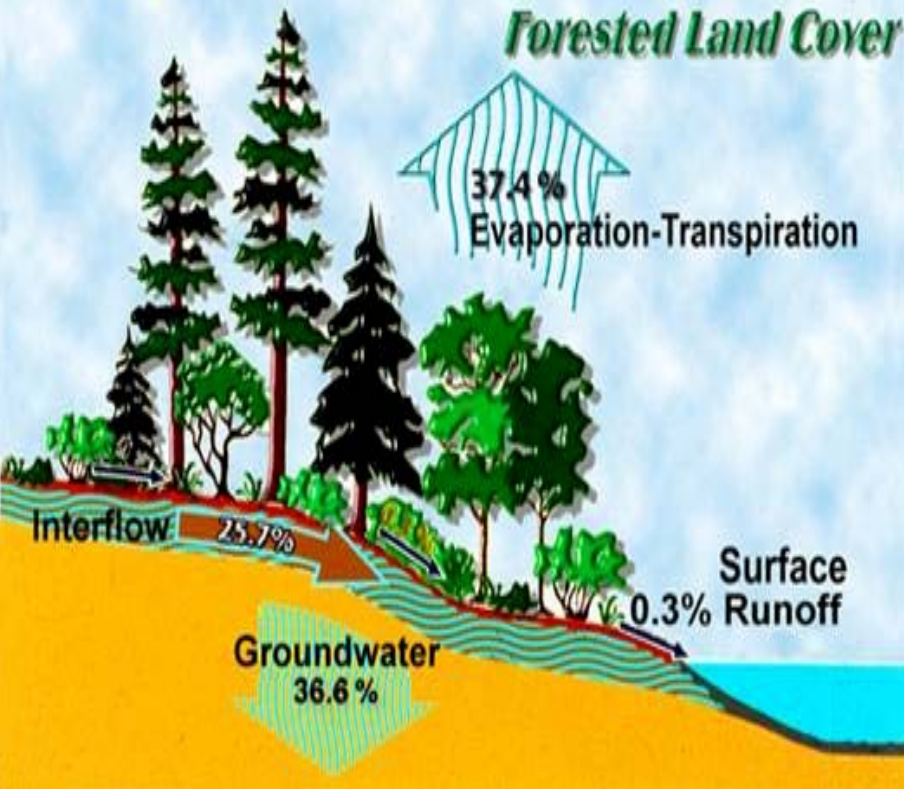






Typical Annual Water Budget

Forested Land Cover



Typical Annual Water Budget

Urbanized Land Cover

